

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 2003, 4:30 p.m. Council Chambers**

PRESENT

Pat Bryant
Joan Chelton
Dave Clingan
Cindy Felsten
Jay Myers
Gil Palmer
Chrystal Pushor
Dick Underdahl-Peirce
Marie Schroeder
Barbara Stevens
Madhu Vedak

ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT: Director Arlette Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith

Commissioner Palmer brought the meeting to order. He explained what his reason was for the special meeting. His concern was whether the Commission had handled the process of the proxy vote of Commissioner Pushor appropriately at the February 26th meeting. He stated that there was no official process taken and that he didn't know if that was an appropriate process. Commissioner Stevens stated that she didn't remember the Commission having proxy votes before and questioned if the Commission had a policy on that. Director Tinsley stated that the Commission Rules and Regulations and Ordinance are both silent on that. Director Tinsley stated that other meetings were looked at and there have been proxy votes but the vote has never been a tie-breaking vote. Past practice indicates the Commission does count proxy votes. There is no official policy that has been passed on how to handle proxy votes. The Laws Award policy does not address proxy votes. Director Tinsley stated that she notified Commissioners by email prior to the February meeting that she was expecting a vote from everyone on this matter, and she asked for contact numbers for any Commissioners who would be out of town. Director Tinsley stated that she also checked Robert's Rules of Order as a reference, even though the Commission Rules do not specifically incorporate Robert's Rules of Order. Robert's Rules of Order are silent on proxy votes or any type of absentee voting. Commissioner Palmer stated that because our past practice has been to count proxy votes he didn't feel it was appropriate to disregard Commissioner Pushor's proxy vote.

Commissioner Underdahl-Peirce stated that because of time constraints at this meeting he was recommending that a discussion on proxy voting be addressed at another meeting. Commissioner Stevens defined what a proxy is as well as an absentee vote. She suggested that the Commission should be clear in its definition.

Commissioner Palmer stated that he would like to begin at the point of the Executive Committee's recommendation. Director Tinsley stated that the recommendation was to nominate both candidates, Mayor Fred Armstrong and Senator Robert Garton to become the 2003 Wm R. Laws Human Rights Award recipients. **Commissioner Underdahl-Peirce stated that he would make that a motion. Commissioner Clingan seconded.** Chairperson Palmer asked for discussion on the motion that had been made and seconded. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Palmer stated that there was a motion and a second to accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Commissioners Myers, Underdahl-Peirce, Palmer, Clingan and Pushor voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Felsten, Stevens, Vedak, Chelton, Schroeder opposed the motion. Commissioner Bryant chose to abstain. Because of a tie vote, the motion failed.

Commissioner Chelton moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Vedak seconded. The Commissioners voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Meeting adjourned.